THE
NARRATIVE DISPLAYED,
AND THE
Hidden Works of Darkneſs revealed,
IN A
LETTER of APPEAL
TO THE
Freeholders, Burgeſſes, and other worthy ELECTORS of the City of LICHFIELD;

CONTAINING

The genuine Hiſtory of a very extraordinary ÆRA.

Written *February* 22, 1765, by a CITIZEN of the WORLD.

The Right of Election for the City of Lichfield is in the Bailiff, Magiſtrates, Freeholders of 40*s. per annum, and all that hold by burgage tenure, and in ſuch freemen only as are inrolled paying ſcot and lot there.*

Orders and Reſolutions, &c.

PRINTED in the YEAR 1765.

Bought from Portland Book Company, Book Market. 837

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY 26 FEB 1903

TO THE

Freeholders, Burgeſſes,

And other

Worthy ELECTORS of the City of LICHFIELD.

GENTLEMEN,

THE many ſtruggles you have made, in ſupport of your conſtitutional franchiſe, viz. the free and uncorrupt right of election of repreſentatives in parliament, hath entitled you to the applauſe and thanks of every true Briton :—For, whatever may be alledged to the contrary, the preſumption of candor and humanity is, that your violent oppoſition to one family and intereſt, and your as ſtrenuous attachment to another chain

or body of political partiſans, were only ſo many zealous efforts in the cauſe of pure and unreſtrained liberty.

That you have been, actuated, Gentlemen, by ſuch noble and generous principles, your memorable attachment to, and ſupport of the worthy gentlemen who have occaſionally filled the candidate's chair below, or the member's ſeat above, loudly proclaims: Witneſs eſpecially thoſe adorned characters then ſo conſpicuouſly eminent and ſhining in a Holt, a Vernon, a Greaſly, an Avery, and a L—t, the laſt of whom I ſhall now conſider more particularly, as being your late object of admiration and choice.

It would be as indecent to rake up the aſhes of the dead, as, indeed, the task might be difficult to unravel and delineate the ſecret motives and ſprings of thoſe ſeveral worthy patriotic gentlemen who, ſince the memorable æra of the late Lord G--er's defection from the antient Tory party and intereſt, have ſucceſſively taken the lead and direction of the government of your city, peculiarly of thoſe who have ſo loudly denied

and

and inveighed againſt the leaſt affinity to the powers of corruption.

Peace-eternal reſt upon their manes *(thoſe worthy ſouls)* who never practiſed what they decried and diſavowed.

But a late tranſaction, relative to your honour and your birth-right, and in derogation to both, is at laſt (whether caſually or providentially, no matter) brought to public view and public enquiry.—It is now too notorious, longer to lie inveloped in the boſom of a pretended plauſible obſcurity: how far it will ſtand the teſt of impartial ſcrutiny, your breaſts, your own reaſon, gentlemen, ſhall be the judge, to acquit or condemn.

At the laſt general election, Mr. L—t was, by reaſon of his natural intereſt, and reſidential connections; and (as he himſelf ſays) becauſe no other gentleman had enough of public ſpirit, to ſtand the conteſt with the G——r intereſt, put on the bays of popularity, and was not only ſupported by your voluntary aid and aſſiſtance, but actually returned for one of your repreſentatives, and at a very trifling expence: I need, in this only, to appeal to your memories, with how

much œconomy and parſimony, even to niggardneſs, the canvaſs was conducted. Mr. L—t was indeed petitioned againſt, and voted out of the houſe, in preference to Mr. M——ll, but without any length of time or ſcrutiny, and with an expence very inadequate to the prevailing report and opinion.

Pardon, Gentlemen, a ſtate of ſome facts, which, though known ſenſibly to many of you, are neceſſary for opening a plain diſquiſition of their cauſes, tendency, and effects.

In December 1762, when diſſention aroſe between the great and mighty in political power, and a party reared its head, under the title of a diſguſted *Minority*, ——your preſent repreſentative, Mr. M——l conſidering, and ſeeing his perſonal attachment to the late duke of De——ſhire, and his political obligation to lord G—r, to claſh, as their ſentiments did, with each other, wiſely and honourably, (and, to his honour, be it ever remembered, in ſpite of all party feuds) he proffered to reſign his ſeat for your city; and in conſeqence, a new member was the object of immediate conſideration.

This

This happened at the latter end of the year 1762, when Mr. G——t was diſpatched to Lich——d, to propoſe Capt. P——y, on behalf of lord G—r, which he did firſt to Mr. D——t, and then to Mr. L——t, who, in conſultation with *two or three* friends, gave his anſwer, that he would oppoſe any gentleman that ſhould ſtand candidate in lord G——r's intereſt: on which that intention of Capt. P——'s was declined.

In the beginning of December 1762, Sir Br—— Br——n D——s went from London to Lich——d, and offered himſelf to Mr. L——t, to ſtand candidate in the room of Mr. M——ll, in caſe of his reſignation; but Mr. L——t perſevering in his reſolution, to oppoſe any gentleman whatever, recommended by lord G——r, (however worthy or unworthy) and Sir B——n, being too ingenuous and honourable to deny his friendſhip or connection with lord G—r, that treaty alſo dropped, and the ſeat was not at all vacated.

In theſe two different applications and refuſals, it is very remarkable, that Mr. L——t conſidered himſelf, and acted in a double capacity, viz. as an avowed and im-

implacable enemy to lord G—r and his friends, and as entire proprietor and diſpoſer of your voice and conſcience.—— Pity it is, that party rancour, or party policy, (which laſt is, perhaps, the moſt predominant paſſion) ſhould ſuperſede all diſtinction between virtue and vice, wiſdom and folly.

In anſwer to this, Mr. L——t alledges, he did conſult Mr. D——t, and Mr. N—t.—Granted that he did ſo; are three gentlemen alone to govern, and arbitrarily accept or reject a candidate or member? Are the voices of three individuals, however affluently bleſſed, however dignified in ſtation, or cordially eſteemed, (for eſteem they deſerve, and merits they all have, and foibles too) ſhall, I ſay, three alone, call the borough of Lich—d there own, and diſpoſe of the conſcientious voice of as many hundreds, as caprice, malice, or intereſt influences them?—Heaven forbid.

Much leſs then, ſhall one man ſeal your vaſſalage, although his able (and no leſs worthy) advocate, hath publicly avowed, his ſole and abſolute right to, and diſpoſal of your intereſt and choice; and that too, for having expended be-

tween

tween two and three thouſand pounds, in ſupport of your *Liberties* and *Privileges*.

Such language, and ſuch doctrine, Gentlemen, may become a well feed advocate, whoſe duty therefore, juſtifies his ſpecious arguments.—But reflect and conſider, Gentlemen, how, and in what manner, hath Mr. L——t preſerved and ſupported your liberties;——or (what is moſt valuable to moſt) your intereſts.

Let him anſwer.

Was there more than 300 l. ſpent at Lich—d by Mr. L—t during the whole election?

Did not the gentlemen bear all their own expences?

Were not the public houſes ſtopped, and ſhut immediately, as ſoon as the freemen had polled?

Was there not ſhewn the greateſt niggardneſs, and impolitic avarice throughout the whole election?

Did he buy one ſingle vote?

Had this man then any right or pretence to ſell ſuch his intereſt, or to hope, even from ſuch mean ſpirited conduct, for a continuance of it?

Was

Was not the election confeſſedly loſt by Mr. L——t, for want only of a little humility and generoſity.

It hath been alledged, and more than alledged, that lord and lady D—l, both aſſented to the truth of the ſtory in the narrative.

But, if they are to be believed (who aver the contrary) this fine ſpun tale was only read over in part to them, at Fiſh——c, and that too immethodically, and by pieces of ſentences, and by a gentleman, who laughed and cut capers during the whole time, and was manifeſtly intereſting himſelf in the ſubject, in favour of Mr. L——t; and the truth of this is evident, becauſe Mr. D—t himſelf did apply to a gentleman of lord D——l's acquaintance, and aſked it as a particular favour, that he would adviſe his lordſhip, to agree with Mr. L——t, and ſtand candidate in caſe of a vacancy.

This (if neceſſary) can be *proved*.

Now, as Mr. D——t hath ever acted, as Mr. L——'s boſom friend, and was employed by him, to intimate his conſent of reſignation to lord D——l, upon ſtipulated terms ; what can be inferred

or

or believed from this application, thro' the medium of a fourth hand; but that Mr. L——t was anxiouſly ſolicitous to get this memorable bargain completed, and the prodigious ſum of 1500l. refunded to him.

But, to proceed on interrogatories:

Is expending a thouſand pound in a journey to London, and with the clerks of parliament, any ſervice to you?

Would Mr L—t's ſitting in the houſe, have, in the leaſt, contributed to alleviate or leſſen your burden of taxes, or to the increaſe of your trade?

What memorable act of charity hath he done? What trophies of praiſe and reſpect are raiſed or due for his benevolence towards his fellow citizens?

Does he live in affluence and ſplendour? Doth a large family create large bills, for the emolument of your tradeſmen?

Does the ſmoaking ſurloin, and potent October, ſuch as Boniface of old cat, drank, and ſlept upon, (grace his hoſpitable table) and give a daily welcome to his brother citizens? How oft (if ever) doth he deign the friendly viſit?

Say, Gentlemen, which of your ſons or relations hath he provided for, by recommendation or otherwiſe? What branch of your family hath he been the means of giving an acquiſition of fortune to?

What then, Gentlemen, are the motives or grounds of your affection, or his right to a deſpotic ſale of your hereditary, or otherwiſe acquired votes?

Behold his defence? The voice of fame, having ſuſpected his virtue and conduct, in ſelling what was not his own to diſpoſe of, he being arraigned for proſtituting his own vote and intereſt, to the paltry purchaſe of a dirty fifteen hundred pounds (a ſum, if virtuouſly obtained, vaſtly trifling and inſignificant to his fortune and mode of living)—behold it was whiſpered and warranted by Mr. L—t's friend, that the account, or narrative he nad written reſpecting this affair, was a full and clear juſtification of his conduct; yet, for prudential reaſons, the curioſity of the public never was gratified with the particulars, nor you, Gentlemen, thought worthy of an apology for ſo extraordinary and unwarrantable a ſtep. That it was cor—t, there is not a ſhadow of doubt

doubt with the beſt L——s; however, as in other violent breaches, through the bounds of public juſtice, where dire neceſſity is pleaded in mitigation; ſo, in the preſent caſe, the excuſe is, that prudence required, what was originally intended for the preſs, to be moſt cautiouſly concealed till the courſe of l—l proceedings ſhould enforce its publication.

That the facts ſtated in the narrative as true, as alledged, is yet diſputable; —tho', *to be ſure, as the ſaying is*, Mr. L——t is too much a gentleman, and too tenacious of character, to aſſert a falſhood *, as Mr. D——— is cautiouſly ſo, to ſupport or defend it.—— Hence, letting that hare ſit, and purſuing the thread and ſtory of the narrative, permit me to continue the chain of facts and incidents from the place of our digreſſion, and thence will naturally flow thoſe inferences and ſtrictures which carry perfect conviction to the impartial mind———Prejudiced as I have ever been in favour of Mr. L—t,

 and

* Lord and Lady ------ both deny the *whole* narrative being wholly read and aſſented to.

and independant as I am of both the noble peers, the proofs are too ſtrong and glaring, to be denied, of this important fact, viz. That you, Gentlemen, have been groſsly injured and inſulted.

Upon the prevailing rumour of a new election, and after the propoſal of accommodating a return, firſt of Cap. P———y, and afterwards of Sir B—n B——n, as before ſtated, Mr. L——t applied to Lord D———l for his intereſt at the ſuppoſed approaching vacancy; to which his lordſhip, with conſummate coolneſs, and ſeeming indifference, anſwered, That he neither had or would have any thing to do with that Borough,—and waved any promiſe of aſſiſtance.

Rather alarmed at this behaviour from a gentleman who had theretofore ſo ſtrenuouſly exerted himſelf in the ſame party and intereſt, and who had manifeſtly a conſiderable influence over many voters at L———d, Mr. L——t began to ſuſpect his lordſhip's ſincerity, and then it was Mr. D—— happened luckily to ſtumble upon the cauſe, and at once unravelled the latent plot, viz.

That

That his lordſhip had certainly a deſign upon the Borough himſelf, but was too modeſt or too politique to diſcover his intentions.———Whether Mr. L——t thence-forwards ſuggeſted a fear of Lord D———l joining Lord G——r, and in conſequence foreſaw the ſhort exiſtence of his own popularity: You will judge, Gentlemen, by the immediate and ſubſequent operations.

Mr. L—— then tells Mr. D———, amongſt other equally important reaſons, that as public opinion was a very mutable, unſtable tenure.——As family affairs, or time itſelf, might change and pervert the nature and tide of our paſſions: and, as every man is ſubject, and hath a right to alter his views and meaſures, ſo he had his reaſons ſufficient to himſelf to decline any future oppoſition, and ſtruggle for that poſt of honor; and, therefore, if Lord D—— would reimburſe him what money he had ſunk in the former election, he would give up his intereſt.

From this hint, and a private diſcourſe (*but Gentlemen*, without any conſultation or concurrence of the Majority

of

of his friends) Mr. D—— firſt intimates theſe Mr. L——'s ſentiments, and great condeſcenſion to my Lord D——, and her Ladyſhip, together at F——h, who both, it is alledged, approved the terms, and his Lordſhip appointed a day by letter for opening the treaty, and ſettling particulars.—Being unguardedly engaged, the day fixed a ſhooting. On the day following, Lord D—— called on Mr. D——t, and they went both together to Litch—d to Mr. L——t's houſe.—— There in a room by themſelves; the terms were ſettled between *Buyer* and *Seller*, Mr. D——t, nor any one ſingle gentleman was preſent, or privy to the tranſaction, even their boſom friend and agent was excluded the knowledge and preſence of ſo ſacred a contract; ſacred indeed! whereby the moſt eſſential and valuable birthright of a whole body of citizens was moſt infamouſly bartered, or intended to be bartered, for the v-n-l price of fifteen h——d pounds; for which three diſtinct notes were given, payable, at ſix weeks, and nine months. —In this Mr. L—— paid D—— the compliment of taking his own time for the payment; nor were the bills preſented

ſented for acceptance, till Mr. L—— went to town ſome months afterwards: however, before the nine months had lapſed, Lord D———l diſapproved of his bargain, and applied for Mr. L—'s conſent to ſet it aſide: nevertheleſs the money was paid when due.

In the intermediate ſpace it appears, Lord D—— tried to ſtrengthen his intereſt.——He purchaſed ſome freeholds from the vicars for himſelf, his brother Ch——r, and Mr. S——y, and an opportunity was taken to invite ſome of the principal Burgeſſes to dine with his Lordſhip at F——k, where Mr. Emery, Mr. Wood, and Mr. Bird (in particular) promiſed him their Votes and Intereſt, in caſe Mr. L———t declined.—So ignorant were they then of this memorable contract.

The more his Lordſhip cooled upon his purchaſe, the more open became the eyes of the people, who firſt muttered forth their ſighs, without daring to utter them plainly. Then murmurings took place of ſilence, and jealouſy aſpired to the ſeat of confidence; and now another circumſtance occurs to inhance their fears, and verify their doubts.

The

The town-clerkſhip of L——d becoming vacant, which had long heretofore been held by an enemy to the G——r intereſt, was now ſolicited for (amongſt many other Candidates) by Mr. C——s S——n, who was the avowed enemy of Mr. L——t: he, however, ſupported Mr. H——y, who would, doubtleſs, have added honor and ſtrength to the good old cauſe: but, to ſhew the mutability of human friendſhip, Lord D—l enjoins the ſervices of ſuch of his tradeſmen, who were aldermen in Mr. S—n's favour, and the reſt of Mr. L———t's friends, quited the field of battle, abaſhed, and with hiſhonor.

In January 1764, Lord D—— being determined to diſpute the legality of the contract, deſired two gentlemen might meet to ſettle the matter friendly: for this purpoſe, Mr. L---ford was propoſed on his behalf; but, being diſapproved by Mr. L——t, that treaty there ended.

Thence it is ſaid, his Lordſhip threatened to to commence *an action at law, for the recovery back of 1500 l. as ſo much

* Since this was ſent to the preſs, it is reported, that Lord D----- did bring his action at law, and was nonſuited.

much money received for his uſe, and for which he ought to account, and ſhew a conſideration; againſt which Mr. L——t excuſed himſelf (as is ſaid) in a double capacity, *1ſt*. As not being bound to account for money received on notes or draughts, which had the operation and effect of Inland Bills of Exchange; and alſo, (that failing) *2dly*. That he had given Lord D---, a valuable conſideration, by reſigning to him his right and intereſt to your votes and election; and which his Lordſhip, Mr. L—t ſays, had ſubſequently acknowledged and allowed to be a good conſideration, and an honourable agreement (as between themſelves) and therefore Mr. L———t ſays, he will juſtify the detention, of what old Shippen's Ghoſt calls the price of your freedom.

Such is the ſtate of the caſe between the parties, and whether both ſides are equally c—pt, as to this Borough-bargain? Or whether Mr. L——t can, or cannot, in equity or law, maintain the validity of this extraordinary negociation, is not my province or your duty to enquire? Be that the buſineſs of a Lord

C— J—, or a Lord H— C— to determine.

But give me leave, Gentleman, to point out to you ſuch irrefregable arguments and proofs ariſing from the circumſtances attending it as ſhall clearly elucidate the truth of my former poſition, *viz.* that your rights and liberties, as Engliſhmen, and as Citizens of L—f—ld, have been invaded and diſhonored, and that it is your duty to aſſert and vindicate your injured right.

1ſt. Mr. L———t's advocates pretend to ſay, that Lord D———l ſolicited (repeatedly) for ſuch treaty and contract.— This they pretend to ſhew from his Lordſhip's letters ; but, in truth, no ſuch thing appears : — for the firſt motion and propoſal was made to Lord D———l, in conſequence of the diſcourſe before-mentioned between Mr. L———t, and Mr. D———t, by the latter, and doubtleſs by the direction of the former, without the advice, conſent, or direction of any other Electors.

2dly. This is manifeſtd by another argument, made uſe of to exculpate Mr. L———t, viz. That as Lord D———l

was

was poſſeſſed of a far greater fortune than Mr. L———t, and expended a vaſt ſum of money in that town, he was naturally afraid of diſobliging his Lordſhip, by diſappointing his inclinations, when he found them bent towards that point of the compaſs.—And to this may be added his fear of finding his popularity and intereſt very light, when put in the ſcale of canvas and ſcrutiny with his Lordſhip.

3*dly*. That as Mr. L———t has ſpent ſuch a monſtrous ſum of money as 1500 l. at the conteſted election with Mr. M—y—l, he had certainly a right not to give up his intereſt, without being reimburſed; and, to take his Lordſhip's money in particular, becauſe he thought him moſt likely to be agreeable to the city.—Or, in other words, That as he had laid out ſo much money to obtain an honour, he had a right to ſell his conſtituents for the ſame ſum.

Alas! how fallacious, how inſigficant are theſe arguments.———Suppoſe Lord D———l had not been ſo very bountiful and condeſcending as to have given this 1500 l. to Mr. L———t, would he have dared to tell you, Gentlemen, you

ought, or ſhall vote for him, and no other perſon, till He is reimburſed ?

Is He, Gentlemen, your land and houſe owner ? Is He Lord of the whole, or the greateſt part of your city ? If not, there is not a ſhadow of even *cuſtomary practice* for ſuch a claim and chain upon your underſtandings.

Doth this doctrine of Mr. L———t's hold good ? Hath not every gentleman, who hath ſtood the butt of party-conteſt, and ſpent his money with you (and you know whether any candidate ever ſpent leſs) an equal demand and charge upon your conſciencies ?

If there is any debt or obligation between your borough and Mr. L———t, moſt certainly it is due to you, Gentlemen, who did him the diſtinguiſhed honor of nominating, ſupporting, and returning him without bribe, and almoſt without being aſked, and without thanks.

And ſhall it be ſaid, that this man (worthy as he is) or any two or three men (however great or worthy they may be in private character) ſhall preſume to barter and exchange for ſordid lucre your liberty and independency, and that too

too without any previous (or even ſubſequent privity and conſent, and for ſo mean and pitiful a price ?

Reflect, Gentlemen, how many thouſands have been ſpent within the ſpace of twenty years laſt paſt in ſupport of the cauſe of freedom ; and which of the candidates , though poor in fortune, have been ſo mean in ſpriit, to claim and lay an obligation upon your future choice.—For the many thouſands ſpent amongſt you by the G——r and A—n families, you can boldly charge them with corruption ; but ſo blind is party, and ſo powerful is prejudice, that bribery is a virtue, corruption an idol,—— and ſlavery a bleſſing, if a L———t or a N———t but ratify the deed, and rivet the chains.

The two firſt public acts of Lord D——l are an ample illuſtration (ſaith Mr. L——t) of the infirmity of his Lordſhip's political judgment. The firſt ſtep was not ſimply recommending, but enforcing the choice of an officer, who was confeſſedly obnoxious to the three fourths of ſuch of you, Gentlemen, who had the right of nomination.

The

The ſecond was flying in the face of his own hand writing, and ſeeking refuge in the law for violating a contract made and confirmed (as Mr. L———t ſays) with the ſtrongeſt ties of faith and honor.

But might not this ariſe from ſome ſecret, and yet undiſcovered, affront that rouſed his Lordſhip's reſentment and indignation againſt Mr. L———t.

To frame the beſt conſtruction, let us ſuppoſe it was for accepting a ſum ſo venal and trivial *for* an intereſt he could not, and was privily determined not, to ſupport, *from* a gentleman who was his neighbour, his friend, and his ally in political intereſts: And, laſtly, *for* the diſhonorable ſale of an honorable people, who, for their deſintereſted zeal towards him, deſerved every compliment of reſpect and confidence.

Permit me again, Gentlemen, to repeat the diſtinction, which, if unobſerved, may confound your ideas, and miſlead or divide your judgment.

This famous bargain and ſale (the particulars of which are here laid open) as between the parties themſelves, might be fair and honorable, though infamous and

and diſhonorable as toward the electors, and, therefore, whether Mr. L———t took any undue advantage of his Lordſhip, or impoſed on him, by taking 1500 l. for what probably, he never could have made ſo mauy Pence of to any other perſon, and for what he never intended; but, on the contrary, was determined to make no uſe of, may be a ſufficient foundation for a quarrel and litigation between the contracting powers:——But to you, Gentlemen, who were the ſubject, the object, and the very thing itſelf, cont—d for; it is no queſtion, nor any difference; — the act itſelf, as towards you, was baſe, treacherous and diſhoneſt; for as much as it was your province to remove, and confer your future votes and favors upon Him, or any other perſon you ſhould beſt approve.

Can it be ſaid, Gentlemen, that he bought you, and that therefore, in the ancient language of *ſtate* corruption, he had a right to ſell you?——Had any man amongſt you his price?——— God forbid!

Infamous and il——l as it is, Had He, Gentlemen, gave you 1500£ for the

the purchaſe of your votes; had you yourſelves become his venal hirelings, there might have been ſome ſmall pretence for his reimburſeing himſelf by *ſelling* what he had *bought*—But even in ſuch a like caſe, I believe at a new election little regard is ever had or expected for former gratuities.

We know too true it is, that in ſome ſmall boroughs the intereſt and power (not right) of election of its repreſentatives, is unavoidably annexed to the inheritance of the eſtate, and the proprietor very naturally diſpoſes of the nomination without any previous conſultation of the voters, who are, in that inſtance, his tenants and dependants.—But, Gentlemen, is this the caſe of the city of L———d? far from it:—There are many families in that city, to whom greater obligations are due, in point of real ſervice, than to Mr. L—t, whoſe expences there are minutely ſmall and diſproportionable to his fortune and quality; or, as a candidate for honor and truſt.

Whilſt thus handling a ſubject intirely political, I would by no means be thought to impeach any private character:

racter : nor would the epithets beſtowed upon public tranſactions, be in reaſon or juſtice applied to things of a private and perſonal nature.—Mr. L———t is eſteemed as (and I believe really is) a very honeſt man, and a good kind of a private gentleman. And, indeed was it otherwiſe, it is indecent, nay, more, it is unjuſt, to criticiſe, or caſt cenſure upon any man's private and perſonal conduct. Let the folly or the guilt be ever ſo glaring.———We know not the ſprings or motives of theſe many events, which may ſeem to us vaſtly prodigious and vicious. Nor is it fit (if it were poſſible) to trace them to the firſt ſprings of action. Nay, the learned obſervations made by ſome reſearchers into natural cauſes and effects, teach us rather to admire and pity, than to condemn thoſe who become the unhappy agents and inſtruments of infamous deeds.

The goſpel-diſpenſation too is juſtly threatening and ſevere in the condemnation of all *ſlanderers*, tale *bearers*, and buſy *bodies*.

But, in matters of public utility, or concern, the good of ſociety tolerates our attention, and demands our cenſure

or applauſe; and without exerciſe of criticiſm on public characters, Liberty would become a phantom, and Freedom but a ſhadow of a ſubſtance, which the ſcourge of the preſs can only maintain, and hand down to our poſterity, as their immaculate and inviolate birth-right.

There is, Gentlemen, an argument yet unnoticed, which, to vulgar minds and opinions, might have ſome weight in favour of Mr. L——t's conduct, viz. That He was conſcious to himſelf of having the friendſhip of the principal or leading electors ſo ſtrongly that they would implicitly yield to and approve his conduct.

Though this is far from being true (your approbation by no means having followed or juſtified his expectations) yet, take it for granted, that he had the previous conſent of ten, twenty, or even fifty of the electors :--Would that ſanctify the contract, which is in itſelf unhallowed and unconſtitutional? Bribery is too often committed, ſo is theft and perjury, and often goes unpuniſhed; but is it in any degree leſs criminal?

For

For what did Mr. L——t receive the 1500 £ but for his intereſt, which means and implies only a b—e to influence his friends and dependants to v—e for Lord D———l. Is not this b———y? The ſuperior honour aſſumed by Mr. L—t and that party, hath ever been their boaſted ſpirit of unlimited and unreſtrained freedom.

But now, alas! how are the laurels faded?

Lo! the white roſe blooms no more!

Where are now your boaſted patrons of patriotiſm?

Is 1500£ the price of that unſhaken virtue, that triumph of glorious freedom for which, at leaſt, 20,000£ hath been ſo lately ſpent?----Shameful *ſacrifice!*

To conclude;----As, Gentlemen, you cannot be bound, nor ought to be influenced by any private, or other bargain, barter, or engagement made between Lord D———l and Mr. L—t, or any other perſons; it behoves you, futurely, not only as citizens of L—d, but as Engliſhmen, and as members of that ſociety and community whereof you conſtitute a part of the legiſlative

power, to reſent your paſt inſult, to uſe and employ that privilege and authority which the laws of your country have intruſted in your hands, with ſuch reſolution and integrity as ſhall convince the world you ſcorn to be ſlaves or tools to any ſect or party; or to any individual, or body of men, howſoever elevated by wealth or title—Take ſpecial care, leſt cautious to ſteer clear of the rocks of Scylla, you run foul of thoſe of Charybdis—Shake off all party prejudices—Judge of men by their actions, not by their profeſſions—Pay a due reſpect to merit in whomſoever found—Let not a blind zeal for a meanleſs name of whig or tory courtier or patriot, miſlead your opinion, or beguile your ſenſes.———A man of ſenſe may have it in his power to ſerve his country; a fool cannot—And it would be much more becoming and much more intereſting to the happineſs of ſome gentlemen I could point out, as the quondam demi-gods of your ſeptenial devotions, Had they taken example by Sir Francis Wronghead, and contented themſelves with rural ſports and domeſtic felicity—believe me, there

is

is much more harmony in the chorus of a pack of fox hounds, and more diverſion in the fluſhing and ſhooting of woodcocks or ſnipes, than in the confuſed noiſe and jargon of an aſſ—-y where a *ſenſible* Yea or No, are the ſtanding characteriſtics of talent, and the only promotion or bar to a pl— or pen—.

Can you, Gentlemen, inform me of what party or what intereſt Lord G—r, Lord D———l, Mr. M—l or Mr. L—t now are? Did you know the abilities of Cap. P——y or Sir B—n B——n?-----Can you tell which way any member of Mr. L—t's ſuppoſed intereſt will vote on the next divided queſtion?—You cannot tell; political faſhions change as often as our dreſs.

Remember then, Gentlemen, it is ſufficient for you to know and be ſatisfied that a candidate hath theſe qualities, viz. integrity, intereſt *, and underſtanding—In ſuch a choice you will ſerve your country, your city, and yourſelves.

I forgot

* By intereſt is meant the requiſites (of rank or eſtate, &c.) to command it.

I forgot to mention that the cloſe of Mr. L---t's narrative is filled with very devout ejaculations on the ſpirit and beauty of liberty and independency, and fervent wiſhes for your proſperity and freedom.—This calls to one's memory the like glorious exit of two or three ſorts of mortal beings, who aſpired to immortality in fame by a ſimilar kind of common-place hopes:

The firſt are thoſe miſers and debauchees who think to attone for a whole life of uſury and vice by a ſwingeing bequeſt, to ſome pious charity, of that Mammon of unrighteouſneſs they can no longer keep or enjoy.

The 2d are that claſs of plunderers and robbers, who, like a Poulter or a Weſket, think to enſure a place in the annals of martyrs, by a dying lecture of caution and admonition againſt thoſe arts, frauds, and thefts they had ſucceſsfully practiſed as long as they could, and which they had previouſly inculcated to an hundred accomplices, for the deſtruction of poſterity.

Thirdly, and laſtly—Such are thoſe renowned patriots and ſeeming Cato's of their age, who, by oppoſing all miniſterial

niſterial meaſures, right or wrong, and crying aloud, *Their Country! Their Country!* raiſe a monument of popular admiration high as Babel's tower—'Till a title or a penſion diſſolves the viſionary fabric, and "leaves not a wreck behind."

You, Gentlemen, will make the application.

The obvious hurry and diſpatch with which this is written, will apologiſe for the inaccuracy of ſtile and other imperfections, ſince Truth alone is aimed at by the compiler, who is, with great deference and eſteem,

Your moſt obedient, devoted,

And ever humble Servant,

A CITIZEN of the World.

London, Feb. 23, 1765.

BY ſtat. 2 Geo. 2d. ch. 24. *If any perſon who hath or claimeth to have, or ſhall have or claim to have any right or vote in any election, ſhall from and after the 24th of June, 1729, aſk,* receive, *or take any money or other reward by way of* gift, *loan, or other* device, *or agree or* contract *for any money, gift, office, employment, or other reward whatſoever to* give his vote, *or to* refuſe *or forbear to give his vote in any ſuch election, or if any perſon by himſelf, or any perſon employed by him, doth or ſhall, by any* gift *or reward, or by any promiſe,* agreement *or* ſecurity *for any gift or reward, corrupt or procure any perſon or perſons to give his or their vote or votes, or to forbear to give give his or their vote or votes in any ſuch election, ſuch perſon ſo offending in any of the caſes aforeſaid ſhall, for every ſuch offence, forfeit the ſum of 500l. to be recovered with full coſts of ſuit. And every perſon ſo offending from and after judgment obtained againſt him, or lawfully convicted, ſhall, for ever, be diſabled to vote in any election of members to parliament, and ſhall, for ever, be diſabled to hold or enjoy any office of franchiſe, &c. as a member of any city, borough, town corporate or cinque port, as if ſuch perſon was naturally dead.*

Offenders in twelve months after the election, diſcovering others, indemnified from all penalties and diſabilities.